

*Summary*

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

for

1956





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## GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	.. .. .	112,315 acres
Number of Parishes	.. .. .	52
Rateable Value 31/3/57	.. .. .	£179,686
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/57	.. .. .	£884 1s. 11d.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book	.. .. .	9,452
Estimated mid-year Home Population	.. .. .	27,980
Census Population 1951	.. .. .	25,522

The district is agricultural in character and, depending on location, varies from the market gardening area of the lower greensand outcrop in the North-West, to the fruit growing area of the upper Rhee round Melbourn and Meldreth and to the corn and sugar beet area of the chalk hills to the East and South.

Industries in the area are mostly connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture. There are exceptions however; Sawston has industries of a divergent nature and comparatively large numbers of workers are employed in leather and paper manufacture.

Other manufacturies in Duxford, Barrington and Gamlingay produce synthetic glues, cement and joinery products respectively. The majority of employees thus engaged are resident within the rural district.

Birth Rate	16.8
(Corrected)	18.8
Death Rate	12.7
(Corrected)	9.8
Infant Mortality Rate	12.8

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman:* Councillor P. Hagger

*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor E. Pepper

*Councillors:*

Barnes, A.	Morley., E. W.
Binney, R. C. C. J.	Murfitt, F. W., J.P.
Bowen, Mrs. G.	Noble, J. W.
Bowers, C. H.	Parkinson, Mrs. G. B.
Bullman, E. W., J.P.	Randall, P., J.P.
Campkin, Miss N. I.	Rogers, Mrs. H.
Custerson, R.	Saggers, A. C.
Dyball, E. F.	Shears, A. G.
Fordham, G. R. B., J.P.	Taylor, S. A., J.P.
Gray, Miss L. M.	Thomson, D. W.
Horsford, F. W.	Vinter, Mrs. M. M. K.
Jackson, R. C.	Webb, J. D.
Lay, J. H., M.B.E., M.C.	Wildey, A. C.
May, S. W. H.	Wiseman, E. J.
Milner, J. G.	

## STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health:</i>	P. A. Tyser, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector:</i>	R. J. Hoyle, M.R.S.H.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	H. Taylor, left 23.1.56
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	D. Bush, left 30.6.56
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	P. Cocks, commenced 12.3.56
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	G. Allison, commenced 1.9.56
<i>Clerk:</i>	Miss R. J. Pitches



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report is prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 19/56 dated December 11th, 1956.

It is a little more than five years since I was appointed your Medical Officer of Health and appraisal of this period is now appropriate.

It will be recalled that in my 1951 report an attempt was made to review the changing pattern of public health in the area, since the formation of the district in 1934, as illustrated by the reports of my predecessors.

A brief incursion into public health history in this country may serve as a useful form of introduction as well as providing the essential background to public health work.

Early in the 19th century concern arose about the health of the people and there developed from the work of Edwin Chadwick a philosophy, the 'Sanitary Idea'. It was believed that if the people were given an hygienic environment their health would improve and sickness and death rates would fall. Great advances were made in the latter half of the 19th century to this end, and it was just before the turn of the century that the majority of local sanitary authorities, the custodians of the 'Sanitary Idea', were placed on a firm local government basis. Their work was in the main orientated around the provision of pure water supplies, sewage and refuse disposal, the provision and maintenance of satisfactory housing standards in their areas, and the protection of food supplies; in other words, the establishment of an hygienic environment for the people. Their duties covered both man's home and work environment. The country was somewhat dismayed during the Boer War to find so many young men unfit for service with the armed forces. This situation led to the development of the personal health services as exemplified by the School Health Service and the Maternal and Child Welfare Service. These personal health services which have developed during this century are the logical step following the provision of a satisfactory environment. It remains the duty of the local sanitary authority, that is the county boroughs, municipal boroughs, and urban and rural district councils, to provide and maintain a satisfactory environment for the population in its care. The advantage to be gained from the work of the personal health services, if they are operated against an inimicable background, is much restricted. A satisfactory environment both at home, in transit, and at work remains the prerequisite for the achievement of a high standard of public health.

To advise local authorities in their work the Medical Officer of Health is appointed and the first duty placed upon him by law is that he shall make himself aware of all factors affecting or likely to affect the public health and be prepared to advise his Council. This is indeed a very wide and all-encompassing directive. In this work the Medical Officer of Health is assisted by the public health inspectors who work under his general direction.

I have thought it appropriate to mention these historical and factual points since, with the general upheaval of the second world war and its aftermath it is as well to realise that the prime purpose and duty of the local sanitary authority has in no way changed—it remains the custodian of the 'Sanitary Idea', be it in a twentieth century guise.

The post war years have seen great advances in the country in the field of environmental hygiene, as well as the challenge of new problems. The great drive for the building of new houses, and the development of rural water and sewerage schemes has gone on apace though the country's economic difficulties have, of necessity, caused financial brakes to be applied on a number of occasions. One of the outstanding incidents in the last five years has been the discovery by research workers of an association between tobacco smoking and lung cancer. Certainly on the available evidence the youth of the country should clearly be made aware of the dangers of acquiring the smoking habit. The



diseases of the circulatory system are another main cause of mortality and though investigations into their causes are continually being carried out no such indicative results have been forthcoming as in the case of lung cancer.

Though not of particular importance to this Council, the introduction of legislation this year to combat atmospheric pollution is a long needed measure the desirability of which was most forcibly demonstrated following the London smog incident a few years ago, when it was clearly shown how great was the rise in the deaths from respiratory illness at the time of the smog.

The fight against tuberculosis is achieving excellent results but the battle is not yet won, nor will it be if there should be any complacency about the situation. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease and as long as there are people abroad innocent of their infectious state fresh cases will continue to occur. The use of mass miniature radiography to carry out 100% surveys of populations is one means of discovering cases and techniques for undertaking this work are being worked out.

During the period the County Council introduced a scheme for immunisation against *whooping cough*. At the beginning of this year the Government announced plans for the limited use of a new *poliomyelitis* vaccine. The quantities available did not, however, match expectations and only a few children of those whose parents had expressed willingness for vaccination were able to be protected.

The cessation of food rationing and the return to private enterprise of slaughtering brought their problems, together with additional work. The introduction in 1955 of new Food Hygiene legislation was commented upon in last year's report. Both these factors are important facets of environmental hygiene.

Turning to our own affairs the vital statistics for the year call for little comment and in comparison with the district's experience in the last five years can be considered satisfactory. The mid-year population of the district has not altered in the last year, remaining at 27,980 persons, which compares with 26,535 at the time of the 1951 census. The birth rate has risen from 18.2 live births per thousand population to 18.8, which is above the average of 18.1 for the five year period 1951/55, and well above the average for England and Wales for the same period, namely 15.3. The death rate has remained unchanged from last year, 9.8 deaths per thousand population and this compares favourably with the district's five year average (1951/55) of 10.1 and that for England and Wales, 11.6. The infant mortality rate (infant deaths under one year per thousand live births) of 12.8 is well below the district's five year average of 19.2 which in turn is considerably less than the five year average for England and Wales at 26.9.

During the year I have to report that no notable outbreak of infectious disease occurred except in the case of *measles* which continued to be widespread.

The last five years has seen the completion of the Linton sewerage scheme and the commencement of the Melbourn scheme. Following a deputation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in January 1957, consent has been given to the sewerage of the greater part of the village of Gamlingay in which there is a particularly bad sewage disposal problem in connection with a large Council house site. For many years the plight of Sawston with regard to its antiquated, inefficient and troublesome sewerage scheme has been commented upon. In June 1955, a public enquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the proposed new scheme for the village. So far there is no indication of permission to proceed with the scheme being forthcoming. Conditions continue to deteriorate and the Great Ouse River Board repeatedly reports to the Council the fact that the effluent from the works pollutes the river.

With regard to the Council's comprehensive water scheme progress has been much hampered by the country's economic difficulties. In 1951 there were still eleven parishes without a public main water supply and one in which rather less than half the houses were supplied from an ex R.A.F. bore. In that year permission was received from the Ministry to sink a trial bore hole at Dotterell Hall, the proposed new source for the comprehensive scheme. Since then the villages of Barrington, Foxton and Shepreth have received a public main supply as has the village of Tadlow. Development in the remaining eight villages has been seriously hampered by lack of public main supplies. Recently a



connection was permitted between the Fowlmere ex R.A.F. bore and the Croydon supply in order that the latter might be relieved to some extent. Nothing short of the completion of the comprehensive scheme and the development of the Dotterell Hall source will suffice. During the years the situation in some of the villages has become serious; wells have dried up and frequent bad water samples have been obtained. Towards the end of 1956 a special report was compiled by the senior public health inspector and myself and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Ministry was asked by the Council, and consented in January 1957, to receive a deputation in order that the Council's case both for the comprehensive scheme and the Gamlingay sewerage scheme might be argued before the Ministry. It was indeed most welcome news when soon after the deputation's visit the Minister's sanction to proceed with the two schemes (with some modification) was received.

In the post war years the Council has built a large number of Council houses; 1,400 having been erected by the end of 1956. Immediately after the second world war the Council were faced with the problem of families occupying vacated H.M. Forces hutments in the area. The number of families so housed rose from 224 in 1949 to a maximum of 327 in 1950. During the last five years annual reductions have been made, the greatest having taken place this year; there are, however, still 135 families living in these hutments. The slum clearance survey completed last year revealed 427 houses unfit for human habitation, excluding hutments. Even allowing for a proportion of families finding their own accommodation, leaving the district, or otherwise ceasing to require the Council's assistance, it will be recognised that the Council has still a formidable task in front of it. The Government's housing subsidy now remains only for the purposes of slum clearance and rehousing of families from hutments. In formulating plans for dealing with these problems due regard should be taken of the needs of the aged and, as has been suggested before, the building of units of bungalows of various types, with provision for a resident warden, in different parts of the district is much needed.

One duty the department performs for the Council, namely the maintenance of 100% meat inspection, has increased beyond belief. Although when slaughtering was decontrolled two years ago only three slaughterhouses were licenced the amount of time spent by the public health inspectors on meat inspection is very considerable. Over 25,000 carcasses were inspected in 1956; a marked increase on the previous year. The inspectors are working all hours of the day, weekends included, and it is a great tribute to their diligence and keenness that the high standard of inspection expected today has been maintained.

During the year two of the public health inspectors resigned, one to enter industry, the other to go to another local government appointment. The Council was fortunate in being able to fill these vacancies. In August 1956, by Act of Parliament, the title sanitary inspector was changed to that of public health inspector which far more accurately describes the valuable work of this officer. For Mr. Hoyle, senior public health inspector, and his colleagues, both past and present, it has been a year of considerable activity. Changes in staff always interfere with the smooth running of a small, highly specialized department and it is greatly to Mr. Hoyle's credit and that of his colleagues that the work has continued so efficiently. At all times I have received loyal and willing help for which I record my thanks.

Looking back over the last five years there is undoubtedly a story of steady progress in the field of environmental hygiene in its broadest sense, which latterly has gained considerable momentum due both to the Council's persistence in its objectives and not a little to changes in various respects in central government policy.

To the Chairman and members of the public health committee I record my gratitude, both on my own account and on that of the department, for the support, interest and encouragement that has been given during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

July 1957

# VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

LIVE BIRTHS								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	251	207	458
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6	12
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	257	213	470

Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.8
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.12)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.8
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.7

STILL-BIRTHS								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	6	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	6	13

Rate per thousand live and still-births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.9
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.0

DEATHS		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
		205		151		356
Death rate per thousand estimated population	.. ..	..	..	..	..	12.7
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.77)	..	..	..	..	..	9.8
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)		..	..	..	..	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY. Deaths of infants under one year of age								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 (6)	—	6 (6)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 (6)	—	6 (6)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.8
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.8
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.8
Legitimate Infant Deaths per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.1
Illegitimate Infant Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)								
Respiratory	Male	3	Female	Nil	..	..	..	
Non-Respiratory	Male	Nil	Female	Nil	..	..	..	3
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil



## CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
*BIRTH RATE	17.6	15.0	18.8	15.4	16.3	16.8
*DEATH RATE	14.3	11.6	11.5	12.6	11.8	12.7
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	30.4	5.1	10.0	30.5	19.8	12.8
	(14)	(2)	(5)	(13)	(9)	(6)

\* The above rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

## TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

								Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	—	6
1 and under 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
2 and under 5 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 and under 15 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
15 and under 25 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
25 and under 35 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	8
35 and under 45 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	10
45 and under 55 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4	14
55 and under 65 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	18	44
65 and under 75 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	32	78
75 and over ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106	84	190
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	205	151	356

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### *Medical Officer of Health*

“The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951” provided for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

### *Public Health Inspectors*

Mr. Hoyle continues as Senior Public Health Inspector. In January Mr. Taylor resigned to take up another Local Government appointment and was replaced by Mr. Cocks who began his duties in March. Mr. Bush resigned at the end of June, and was replaced by Mr. Allison who began his duties on the 1st September.

### *Laboratory Facilities*

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water supplies, and all necessary examination in cases of infectious disease.

### *Hospitals*

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital. The old Poor Law Institution at Linton is now shared between the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the Cambridgeshire County Council; the former having the use of eighty beds for the chronic sick, the latter 95 beds for use under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

## MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

### Annual case incidence and deaths, 1946-56

	YEARS											
DISEASE	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	TOTAL	1956
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	132	111	405	341	30	522	116	676	13	203	2,549	350
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	96	91	96	130	64	181	105	61	129	58	1,011	86
Deaths	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1956

### MEASLES

The epidemic which began last year continued into this, in fact more cases occurred this year than last (350 against 230). Two peaks occurred, one in the 4th to 9th weeks, followed by another in the 17th to 23rd weeks which slowly resolved to the occurrence of sporadic cases about the 31st week.

### SCARLET FEVER

Sporadic cases occurred in the first three quarters of the year.

### POLIOMYELITIS

It is with regret that a fatal case in a young mother has to be recorded; this took place in the first quarter. Another child in the area was also affected in the last quarter of the year. Three cases were also reported from the American Hospital at Wimpole Park in the last quarter; these children came from families of American servicemen attached to the Air Force bases in West Suffolk. The origins of the two cases in the district were unable to be determined.

It is of interest to note that in the last five years 1951/55 no case of *diphtheria* has been reported, whereas in the previous five years 1946/50 two cases occurred. The maintenance of a high percentage of immunised children is the only means of ensuring no recurrence of this disease.

A total of 105 cases of *scarlet fever* occurred between 1951/55 as compared with 191 in the quinquennium 1946/50. 51 cases occurred between 1941/45 and before the war, in the years 1934/38, 250 cases.

No cases of *typhoid fever* have been reported since 1938.

During the years 1951/55 10 cases of *Shigella dysentery* have been reported; only two cases occurred this year. In the same period 12 cases of *food poisoning* were reported; one case occurred this year.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS 1953

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.



# NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1956

Age in years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic Non-Paralytic	Measles	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Totals
Under 1 year	—	6	1	—	5	—	12
1 year—	—	3	—	1	24	—	28
2 years—	—	3	—	—	28	—	31
3 years—	2	11	—	—	25	1	39
4 years—	2	11	1	—	41	—	55
5—9 years	9	48	1	—	181	—	239
10—14 years	1	2	—	—	37	—	40
15—24 years	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
25 and over	—	2	1	—	5	2	10
Totals	14	86	4	1	350	2	458
1955 Totals	19	58	—	—	203	3	283

Age in years	Acute Pneumonia	Acute Encephalitis	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Under 5 years	2	—	—	—	—	2
5—14 years	2	1	—	—	—	3
15—44 years	1	—	2	—	1	4
45—64 years	2	—	2	1	—	5
65 and over	4	—	1	—	—	5
Totals	11	1	5	1	1	19
1955 Totals	11	—	3	3	1	18

## TUBERCULOSIS

During the year two male respiratory cases and one male and one female case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time. Five respiratory cases previously notified elsewhere were transferred to the district. On balance at the end of the year were twenty eight fewer respiratory cases and seven fewer non-respiratory cases on the register.

## TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	60	47	14	14	74	61
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	2	—	1	1	3	1
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations— (a) Transferred from other Districts (b) From Death Returns	4 —	1 —	— —	— —	4 —	1 —
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	19	16	4	5	23	21
6. Number of cases remaining on Register at end of year	47	32	11	10	58	42

## AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

### RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.56

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non-Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non-Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non-Resp.</i>	
0—15	2	5	4	1	6	6	12
15—25	7	—	4	3	11	3	14
25—35	12	3	11	4	23	7	30
35—45	11	—	5	—	16	—	16
45—55	6	—	6	—	12	—	12
55—65	9	2	1	—	10	2	12
65 and over	—	1	1	2	1	3	4
TOTALS	47	11	32	10	79	21	100

#### National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47

No action was needed under this section during the year.

#### National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50

One burial was arranged during the year in accordance with this section.



## REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the year:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,333
Complaints investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	183
General re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	312
Housing:										
General Inspections including survey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	381
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	647
Infectious Diseases:										
General Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Number of Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Verminous Premises and Persons:										
Premises Disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Water Supply:										
Inspections and Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Visits re water sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	175
Visits re Chlorination tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Milk and Dairies:										
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Milk Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Visits re Milk Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Food and Drugs Act:										
Inspection of Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Meat Inspection at Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	814
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Ice-Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Shops Act Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Factories Act:										
Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	247
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	459
Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Petroleum Storage Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	189
Number of Formal Notices served (Public Health Act)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Number of Formal Notices in respect of Housing Defects (Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	189
Number of nuisances, defects and contraventions found	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	411
Number of nuisances, defects and contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	395

## HOUSING

### Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

Dwelling-houses inspected for defects (Public Health Act and Housing Acts) .. .. .	263
Dwelling-houses rendered reasonably fit after informal action .. .. .	161

### Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

Dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	9
Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil

### Housing Act 1936

#### Sections 11 and 13

Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	Nil
Dwelling-houses demolished due to formal action:—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	2
Dwelling-houses demolished as a result of informal action .. .. .	4
Undertakings in respect of dwelling-houses represented as unfit under section 11:—	
(a) Undertaking given by owner to make fit .. .. .	Nil
(b) Undertaking given by owner not to use for human habitation .. .. .	8

#### Section 12

Separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	Nil
Separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined .. .. .	Nil

### Part IV—Overcrowding:—

New cases of overcrowding .. .. .	2
Cases abated .. .. .	Nil

### Housing Act 1949

#### Section 3

Closing Orders made .. .. .	Nil
Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted .. .. .	Nil

### Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	4
Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined .. .. .	1

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954

#### Section 5

Demolition Orders revoked .. .. .	Nil
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### Housing progress during the year

Traditional type houses erected by the Council .. .. .	72
Wimpey “ No Fines ” houses erected by the Council .. .. .	76
Houses erected by private enterprise .. .. .	82

PERMANENT HOUSES BUILT BY THE COUNCIL 1946—1956												
Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Houses	26	34	68	128	140	157	130	180	217	171	148	1,399



In a district such as our own it is true to say that the Council will always be expected to provide suitable homes for a percentage of the population due to factors such as clearance of unfit houses, the movement and increase of industry together with the expanding population.

The structural repair of a high proportion of cottage property is difficult owing to the fact that so many unfit houses are quite incapable of repair at a reasonable cost having regard to the unrealistic rentals prevailing.

Two successful prosecutions against property owners for failure to abate statutory nuisances of a structural nature resulted in the Court making Abatement Orders and imposing fines.

Emphasis during the year has been centred on rehousing families living, for many years past, in converted H.M. Forces hutments. The number of families living in these huts has been reduced from 205 to 135 this year. It is obvious, now that the government subsidy has been withdrawn, excepting for the provision of homes for families from unfit dwellings and hutments, that the rehousing of slum dwellers will be speeded up, little progress having been made in this direction so far.

#### **Total Number of Families in Hutments 31.3.57**

Year	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Total Families	224	327	300	305	304	284	238	205	135

#### **Improvement Grants—Housing Acts 1949-1954**

Applications for financial aid for the improvement of sub-standard dwellings and for the conversion of suitable structures received sympathetic consideration by the Council and the maximum grant has been made in each case amounting to 50% of the improvement cost with a maximum of £400.

At the 31st March, 1957, the total amount of grants paid was £22,858 in respect of 83 completed properties. The Council's architect has indicated that a further 45 applications have also been approved.

#### **Moveable Dwellings**

The number of families living in caravans remains fairly constant, there being 61 such dwellings holding current licences and one site is licensed for 16 caravans. Inspections are usually made as a relicensing prerequisite and 76 visits are recorded. An informal notice was served in one case resulting in better drainage facilities. It is apparent that for some families caravans are forming a permanent means of housing but without the control over overcrowding, light and ventilation, etc., which applies to the traditional house. If this practice is to become a permanent feature of life then there will be a need for enforceable standards similar to those governing traditional housing.

### **WATER SUPPLIES**

A connection between the Fowlmere ex. R.A.F. bore and the Eastern area (Croydon) water supply was effected towards the end of the year. This will afford relief to the Croydon pump and it is hoped will prevent the envisaged water shortage in that area.

In January 1957, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government received a deputation from the Council, about the completion of the comprehensive water scheme, and the Gamlingay sewerage scheme. The department produced a special report for the Ministry in support of the comprehensive water scheme. It is gratifying to be able to report that the Ministry have now given sanction to the completion of the water scheme and also the sewerage of the major part of the village of Gamlingay. The cost of the comprehensive water scheme is estimated to be in the region of £230,000.

A small extension of approximately 1,100 yds. of 3in. main from Steeple Morden to certain properties in Guilden Morden has been completed. The tender price was £1,161 6s. 5d.

## Public Pumps

The department is responsible for the maintenance of public pumps and an expenditure of £115 10s. 0d. has been incurred during the year. Disused pumps at West Wickham and Barrington have been removed and the bores sealed. Repairs were carried out to pumps at Whittlesford, Foxton, Fowlmere and Duxford.

## Sampling

All mains water supplies are chlorinated or chloraminated and a residual of 0.1-0.2 ppm is the aim.

Samples for bacteriological examination are taken monthly from the Council's bores supplemented by quarterly chemical analyses. Bulk supplies obtained from adjacent authorities are also sampled.

Sawston borehole water showed signs at one period of slight non-faecal pollution and small plate counts were obtained at both 21° and 37°C. A series of samples was obtained but the cause of the pollution was not ascertained. As the water is chloraminated before distribution no risk was incurred. Recent samples have shown negative plate counts.

Presumptive coliform organisms were found in samples taken in Little Eversden parish. The contamination was eventually found to be due to a leaking service pipe.

Unsatisfactory samples were obtained from public pumps at Whittlesford and Fowlmere. Alternative fit supplies have now been made available.

## RESULTS OF WATER SUPPLY SAMPLES

Type of Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Piped Supplies .. ..	122	6
Council House Pumps .. ..	3	1
Public Pumps .. ..	14	3
Private Supplies .. ..	15	11



**PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES**  
**Particulars of Population and Numbers of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains:—**

Parish	Acreage	Population Census 1951	Number of dwellings (Rate Books) as at 31/3/57	Number of dwellings supplied as at 31/3/57	Source of Water Supply and quantity pumped 31/3/57
Sawston ..	1,898	2,133	1,027	1,010	Sawston bore (Chalk water) 24,566,500 gallons per year
Great Abington	1,588	503	186	180	Linton bore (Chalk water) 71,550,000 gallons per year.
Little Abington	1,309	280	104	89	
Balsham .. ..	4,550	662	249	213	
Bartlow .. ..	377	73	27	26	
Carlton .. ..	2,415	266	89	76	
Castle Camps ..	3,184	509	197	166	
Shudy Camps ..	2,362	240	91	89	
Hildersham ..	1,511	148	66	52	
Horseheath ..	1,922	328	133	110	
Linton .. ..	3,817	1,608	591	566	
West Wickham ..	2,931	327	116	109	
Weston Colville	3,235	334	133	113	
West Wratting ..	3,543	424	142	114	
Abington Pigotts	1,237	142	44	40	Croydon bore (Lower greensand water) 124,869,500 gallons per year.  Plus 38 hutments supplied from R.A.F. bore.
Bassingbourn ..	3,204	2,554	499*	410	
Kneesworth ..	879	133	33	13	
Litlington ..	2,172	778	254	199	
Melbourn ..	4,480	1,408	558	405	
Meldreth ..	2,513	654	285	245	
Guilden Morden	2,599	552	212	183	
Steeple Morden	3,846	642	248	188	
Shingay .. ..	768	38	19	18	
Wendy .. ..	1,023	81	30	30	
Whaddon .. ..	1,515	196	137*	129	
Arrington ..	1,407	648	196	99	
Croydon .. ..	2,734	223	79	73	
Gamlingay ..	4,460	1,575	563	458	
Little Gransden	1,920	280	99	97	
East Hatley ..	1,189	83	23	22	
Hatley St. George	1,011	67	24	24	
Orwell .. ..	2,083	525	212	204	
Wimpole .. ..	2,468	239	66	51	
Tadlow .. ..	1,743	107	37	28	
Longstowe ..	1,544	240	65	55	
Foxton .. ..	1,752	567	208	88	
Barrington ..	2,282	497	178	139	
Shepreth ..	1,318	438	167	99	
Kingston .. ..	1,907	158	58	52	Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board (Lower greensand water) 4,294,000 gallons per year.
Great Eversden ..	1,400	175	62	57	
Little Eversden ..	790	236	89	81	
Heydon .. ..	1,425	151	57	53	Saffron Walden R.D.C. (Chalk water) 3,721,000 gallons per year.
Great Chishill ..	2,542	332	120	109	
Little Chishill ..	1,216	82	33	22	
Whittlesford ..	1,976	809	318*	—	No Public Piped Supplies. 20 Council houses; Piped supply from bore on site. 22 Council houses; Piped supply from bore on site.  Dwellings supplied from ex R.A.F. bore. 100 Council houses; Piped supply from bore at adjacent factory.
Ickleton .. ..	2,700	613	226	—	
Hinxton .. ..	1,564	274	96	—	
Thriplow .. ..	2,501	386	174*	—	
Pampisford ..	1,607	340	109	—	
Babraham ..	2,387	226	114	—	
Fowlmere ..	2,272	769	255	158	
Duxford .. ..	3,239	1,469	354	—	

\* These figures include dwellings on R.A.F. Establishments.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

At the time of reporting, the sewerage scheme for the parish of Melbourn is nearing completion. This will be followed by the the sewerage of the greater part of the village of Gamlingay at an estimated cost of £48,000 ; sanction for this scheme came as a result of the Council's deputation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government already mentioned.

No apparent progress is being made with the Sawston/Pampisford sewerage scheme. There is a dire need for the village of Sawston to be properly sewered together with provision of a new sewage disposal works. The old worn-out sewers are a source of trouble and the continual overloading of the outdated sewage works, by the addition of scores of council houses and other properties, is having a deleterious effect on the river. The acquisition of adjacent land to the works on which to deposit undigested sewage sludge only adds to the unsavoury conditions prevailing. All the samples taken by The Great Ouse River Board of the final effluent at the sewage works are most foul and are unfit to discharge into the river.

Considering that a public enquiry by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the proposed sewerage scheme was held on 24th June, 1955, one hopes that sanction to proceed will shortly be forthcoming.

### Private Drainage Work

The examination and testing of both new and existing drainage work has been considerable and the public health inspectors have recorded over 450 visits and inspections. As would be expected the major proportion of the work dealt with individual drainage systems rather than with properties connected to the Council's sewers.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

The demands on this service are increasing and several parishes have asked for an increased frequency of collection. Whilst it may not be thought that the present frequencies are ideal they have been vastly improved as have the methods of collection and disposal since the remainder of the rural district was given a service employing direct labour and the services of private contractors were dispensed with some three years ago.

The public could do more to facilitate and reduce the cost of this service by providing properly covered dustbins, placing only dry refuse therein, and burning more combustible refuse. However, in order to keep pace with the public needs a further vehicle has been placed on order.

Forty-four parishes have a collection every four weeks and eight parishes have a fortnightly collection. Sites for refuse disposal become more difficult to find as each tip becomes filled. One such tip was completed during the year and it has been covered with a layer of top soil and returned to agriculture. Four tips are remaining where the "controlled tipping" method is carried out.

Routine treatment of the tips with insecticide from Spring to Autumn keeps down nuisances and the tips are remarkably free.

Refuse Collection and Disposal Statistics for Year Ending 31.3.57				
Vehicle	No. of Loads	Estimated Tonnage	Mileage	Estimated total No. of clearances
Rear loader 16/18 cu. yds.	397	1,697	11,041	170,600
Side loader 10 cu. yds.	578	1,560	12,389	



### Cesspool Emptying Service

The service, which was started in September 1955, is working to full capacity. One 800 gallons suction tanker and two men are employed. A charge is made for each cesspool clearance. Proper disposal is not an easy matter if long hauls are to be avoided.

As will be seen from the following figures a large proportion of the work is in connection with Council properties.

Private Work		Council Work	
Cesspools	Loads	Cesspools	Loads
373	572	210	599

### Night Soil Collection

Part of only one parish receives a weekly night soil collection. This is done by a private contractor and was commenced during the war due to an influx of evacuees into the village. The cost of the service is borne by a parish rate.

### Pest Destruction

Three houses have been treated for flea infestation and although the responsibility is statutorily one for the owner or tenant the direct assistance of the department is usually more effective. Complainants of minor infestations of cockroaches, earwigs and silverfish, etc., were advised on treatment methods.

Complaints of rat infestation have been few and all of minor character. The routine baiting of the Council's refuse tips is carried out by a private contractor and few rats have been seen.

## CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Investigation of 23 cases of infectious disease was undertaken and 9 premises were disinfected. A further 21 visits were made in connection with infectious cases and control of food poisoning involving the submission of 18 faecal specimens to the public health laboratory.

## CONTROL OF FOOD PREMISES AND EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Certain requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 were not applicable until July 1956; with those exceptions the new year brought this welcome legislation into effect. As a preliminary to the routine inspection of food premises their occupiers were sent a synopsis of the Regulations together with an explanatory letter. It is a pleasure to record tribute to the food traders who have accepted in general the Regulations and made their implementation so much easier. Responsibility for raising the country's food hygiene standards is not however a matter entirely for the food trader; the general public also has its part to play.

The number and type of food premises in the district are as follows:—

Grocery (general	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
Butchery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Bakery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Sweets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Cafes, Restaurants (no intoxicants)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150
Factory Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Fried and wet fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
School Meals Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Hospitals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Private Nursing Homes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Clubs & Associations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Not Ascertained	

## Food Shops, Cafes and Factory Canteens

In this connection, 121 visits are recorded in implementing the Food Hygiene Regulations and 47 informal notices have been issued. Works are in progress in the majority of establishments. The items completed in 14 premises are listed under:—

Washhand-basins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hot water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Food tables resurfaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Food wrapping improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Room ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Increased artificial lighting	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
First aid materials provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Redecoration of walls and ceilings	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

It has been necessary to send warning letters in several cases drawing attention to the regulation prohibiting smoking by persons handling food or smoking in a room where there is open food.

## Food Premises (Registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act 1955)

Registered premises are as follows:—

(a) Fish Frying	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) Sale of Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
(c) Sausage and Cooked Meat Manufacture	..	..	..	..	..	..	13

Inspections and work recorded in connection with these premises have, for convenience, been included under Food Shops above. The making of sausages and cooked meats is in all cases an ancillary business to that of butchery.

## Bakehouses

The bakehouses are all family businesses and none employ more than three persons. Eleven visits are recorded. Works have been requested in order to comply with the new Regulations and five premises have had improvements completed as summarised:—

Washhand-basins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Hot water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
First aid materials provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Walls and ceiling redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
General repairs effected	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

## Public Houses

Improvements to these premises are not recorded excepting where improvements have been specifically asked for by the department. The brewers mostly carry out their own policy of improvements which are vetted by the department beforehand. Eighteen visits to public houses have been made and the following works completed.

Improvements to Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Washhand-basins provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hot Water provided	..	..	..	..	..	2
Improvements to food storage	..	..	..	..	..	1
First aid materials provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
General structural repairs	..	..	..	..	..	8



## Milk Supply

It is disconcerting to find that milk containing tubercle bacilli is, on occasions, being produced. One such occurrence necessitated the making of a Diversion Order under the Milk and Dairies Regulations which was eventually lifted after action by the divisional veterinary inspector. One looks to the day when the district will be declared an Eradication Area and finally an Attested Area. The government scheme for eradicating tuberculosis in cattle is proceeding and in England, at the end of 1955, some 400,000 cattle were in Attested Areas, in Wales some 610,000 and in Scotland 947,000. It is hoped that the achievement of complete eradication will not long be delayed. A sobering thought however is that reactor cattle may not necessarily go for slaughtering on removal from an Eradication Area.

### Biological Examination of Milk Samples from Dairy Herds

Milk Designation	No. of Dairy Herds in District	No. of herd milk samples submitted	Representative No. of cows	Myco. tuberculosis present	Brucella abortus present
Tuberculin Tested	50	18	415	Nil	Nil
Non-designated	13	9	124	1	1
Totals	63	27	539	1	1

On the distribution side of milk production, the parish of Gamlingay was in October included in a larger area known as a Specified Area in which only designated milk may be sold. The remainder of the rural district will probably be included in such an area at a later date.

Routine samples of milk from schools supplied, in the main, from large pasteurisers showed that two samples out of 14 failed to pass the methylene blue reduction test. In both cases it was noted that the milk had been kept by the local distributor from one day until the next as code letters on the bottle caps denoted the day of pasteurising and bottling.

Several complaints of dirty milk bottles and of bottles of milk containing paper backing from the underside of the foil cap were received. The manufacturers of the caps were approached and suggestions made with the result that paper backing is no longer used. Warning letters concerning dirty milk bottles were issued but one has a certain sympathy for the bottlers since misuse of the bottles by the public often renders the washing plant ineffective. Close scrutiny of the bottles after passing through the plant is most necessary if recurrences are to be avoided. The dispensable bottle or carton is one answer.

The following annual licences have been issued during the year and 17 milk distributors and 3 dairy premises are registered.

#### Dealers Licences

Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

#### Supplementary Licences

Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

## Ice Cream

The operation of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947—1952 has doubtless had the effect of reducing the number of small manufacturers of ice cream and there are no registered manufacturers in the district. All the 86 retailers obtain their product prepacked and storage is in electric conservators. There is, therefore, little risk of contamination. Thirty five visits to premises revealed no contravention of the Regulations. Of 25 samples tested for hygienic purity of manufacture and handling, 21 were placed in Grade I and 4 in Grade II. This denotes a high standard.

## Unfit Foods

Food stocks are not examined as a matter of routine and unfit foods are found usually as a result of complaints. Small quantities of canned foods were found to be unfit and also 61 lbs. of bacon.

## Slaughter of Animals —Meat Inspection

The inspection of carcasses and offals at the three privately owned slaughterhouses in the district has now become a major duty with a threefold increase in the throughput over the previous year's figures. The total number of carcasses examined was 25,296. It is unfortunate that the trade is unrestricted as to hours of slaughter especially when, in order to maintain a 100% inspection, staff must work evenings and weekends.

A total of 814 visits to slaughterhouses for meat inspection purposes is recorded and 8 tons 15 cwt. of meat and offals were condemned.

### PARTICULARS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED AT THE THREE PRIVATELY OWNED SLAUGHTERHOUSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1956

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	719	27	32	2382	22904	Nil
Number inspected	705	27	32	2251	22281	Nil
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS &amp; CYSTICERCI</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	2	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	125	6	—	73	3723	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18.0%	22.2%	—	3.3%	16.3%	—
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	31	1	—	—	602	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	4.4%	3.7%	—	—	3.7%	—
<b>CYSTICERCOSIS</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	5	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
<b>NUMBER OF ORGANS OR PARTS CONDEMNED—ALL DISEASES*</b>						
Heads	18	1	—	—	588	—
Lungs (Sets)	24	1	—	57	3343	—
Hearts	6	—	—	2	162	—
Livers (Whole or part)	130	5	—	82	346	—
Spleens	2	—	—	—	—	—
Diaphragms	4	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney	1	—	—	—	49	—
Other parts	1266 lbs.	—	—	—	194 lbs.	—

\*These figures do not include instances where whole carcasses and all organs were condemned.



Happily the disposal of rejected meat and offals presents no difficulty, all such rejections are stained green and collected by a local firm at whose factory in the district they are converted to animal foods and fertilizers, etc.

Two depots for the deep freezing of carcasses affected with *Cysticercus bovis* are within easy reach and the department is notified when meat is released from cold store. Specimens for pathological and bacteriological examination have been submitted from time to time to the Veterinary Investigation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and to the Public Health Laboratory Service, and I am indebted to them for their help.

### Slaughtermen's Licences

Licences are now issued for a period not exceeding one year. Twenty-six men hold licences. One contravention under the Slaughter of Animals Act was reported when a person under the age of 18 years was found to have electrically stunned a pig. After consideration the Council decided not to prosecute and a warning letter was issued.

### Knackers Yards

The factory, previously referred to, which converts organic waste into animal foodstuffs is the only licensed knackers yard in the district. This factory is an old structure and there is constant room for improvement. Certain works are under way at the time of reporting.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937—1948

There are 85 factories on the register, unfortunately not all have been visited. Fifty nine visits are recorded and the table indicates items which needed attention.

Supervision of adequacy of means of fire escape is an onerous duty and I am designated as the authorised officer. Twenty one factories hold certificates. One certificate was issued during the year after considerable alterations had been carried out.

No routine visits were made to the 36 outworkers engaged on finishing wearing apparel.

Thirteen factories hold certificates under Section 41 as to wholesomeness of private water supplies.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

### 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	74	57	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	—	—	—
Total	85	59	6	—

## 2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7	2	—	—	—

## PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

One licence has been issued permitting the keeping of a shop for the sale of pets. Conditions were attached to the licence governing environment, feeding and infectious disease of pets so kept for sale.

## PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Eight new storage installations have come into use during the year and a total of 20 visits have been made concerning the inspection and testing of new storage tanks. Industry has also been advised on storage matters especially where this affects means of escape in case of fire. The Regulations cover the storage etc., of “petroleum spirit” which includes many more inflammable substances than petrol.

The relicensing of storage facilities is not carried out by the department and no routine inspections are undertaken in that connection.













